

## **Software Piracy**

As this thesis suggests, it is possible to only speculate about further development in the sphere of software piracy. While in the past households were proud of Internet access whose connectivity hardly exceeded 56kbps, information technology now develops at an incredible pace and organisations such as BSA can hardly measure up with it. Nowadays, downloading files via the Internet is quite an easy job for any average user and in my opinion it is beyond the capacity of any organisation to call on all these Internet users and frighten them, or to conduct with them expensive legal proceedings with uncertain and vague results.

In my thesis I try to explain that the result of efforts in this respect should be, above all, co-operation amongst the relevant organisations, the government, software piracy specialists and software producers and that all these stakeholders should in particular focus on public education, trying to explain the basics of this problem, and on psychological prevention. As the use of the Internet expands, so does software piracy. It is better to change this situation by precise legislative provisions, on which the authors will be able to rely firmly, rather than by repression.

This thesis is not intended to bring any fundamentally new view of copyright or a new view of the cyberworld in general. Its purpose is to provide a brief excursion to the issues of software piracy, in particular from the perspective of copyright, from the point of view of international, European and Czech public and private law.

The structure of this thesis matches the above aims. The thesis is divided into three basic parts. The first part is concerned with the theoretical aspect of this special branch of law and a general introduction to information technology and also its terminology. On the other hand, it is not a mere historical excursion; it also deals with other topics, among others also the Warez community and the interesting approach to regulation through licence agreements and the inexhaustible number of the alternative options thereof.

The second part of the thesis already addresses the legal issues of software and its protection. This part is subdivided into three subsections; each of them covers a different type of the protection of software, namely international legal protection, European legal protection and, finally, Czech legal protection, especially provisions on software protection in Act No 121/2000 as amended, i.e. the Copyright Act.

The last part of the thesis is devoted to the software piracy topic itself, i.e., its types and the options for fighting this sort of illegal activity, whether under private law or under public law. This part also includes an assessment of the legislation in place and estimates of its future evolution.

I have selected this theme mainly because information technology is my great hobby and I actually wanted to gain a more detailed insight into the relevant legislation. But I myself now feel that the resources concerning software privacy are very fragmented and inadequate. In my opinion, the result of my effort is a quite clear and up-to-date survey that can be helpful for, in particular, students who would like to follow this area in the future.